

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action mailed May 16, 2008. The status of the application is as follows:

- Claims 1-5 and 7-21 are pending, and claims 9, 17 and 21 have been amended;
- Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Eijk et al. ("Nd³⁺ and Pr³⁺ Doped Inorganic Scintillators") in view of Boerner et al. (US 2001/0006214 A1) and in further view of Tonami et al. (US 5,909,029);
- Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Eijk et al. in view of Boerner et al. and in further view of Juestel et al. (US 6,734,631 B2); and
- Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Eijk et al. in view of Boerner et al. and in further view of Zagumennyi et al. (US 6,278,832 B1).

The objections and rejections are discussed below.

The Allowed Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 20 are allowed.

The Objection to Claim 21

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Aspects of claim 21, which depends from independent claim 9, have been incorporated into claim 9. As such, it is believed that claim 9 is allowable. Claim 21 has been amended herein to depend from claim 17.

The Rejection of Claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Eijk et al. in view of Boerner et al., and further in view of Tonami et al. As discussed *supra*, **claim 9** has been amended herein to include subject matter deemed allowable by the Office. As such, this rejection should be withdrawn and claim 9 (and claims 12-13, which depend therefrom) should be allowed.

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The Rejection of Claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Eijk et al. in view of Boerner et al., and further in view of Juestel et al. **Claims 14 and 15** depend from claim 9 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

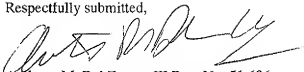
The Rejection of Claims 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Eijk et al. in view of Boerner et al., and further in view of Zagumennyi et al. Independent claim 17 has been amended herein and includes aspects absent from the combination of Van Eijk et al., Boerner et al., and Zagumennyi et al. Therefore, the rejection of claim 17 (and claims 18-19, which depend therefrom) should be withdrawn. **Claim 16** depends from claim 9 and is allowable at least by virtue of its dependencies.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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